

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and Allowance of Claims 5-8 and 21-23 in view of the amendments presented above.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) REJECTIONS

Claims 1- 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Schmid , (US 5748810) in view of Tang et al. (Electronics Letters, 13th October 1994, Vol. 30, No. 21; Page 1758-1759).

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 and 9 have been cancelled.

Claims 10-20 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claim 21 stands allowed.

New dependent claims 22 and 23 have been added.

Claims 5-8 and 21-23 remain pending in this case.

CLAIMS 5-8 and 21-23 ARE ALLOWABLE AS INDICATED BY THE EXAMINER

The Examiner indicated that Claim 21, mistakenly presented as "Claim 10" in the amendment filed March 5, 2003, was allowed. Further, the Examiner stated that Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim, independent Claim 5, and any intervening claims of which there are none. This amendment above does this by presenting Claim 5 as amended to include the limitations of dependent Claim 9. As a result, in accordance with the Final Office Action Independent Claim 5 is allowable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 6-8 which depend from allowable Claim 5 are also allowable.

Additionally, Claim 21 was allowed. Independent Claim 21 was a combination of Claims 5 and 9. As amended herein, Claim 21 includes the further limitation of previously submitted Claim 8. New dependent Claims 22 and 23 track Claims 6 and 7. As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 21 is allowable , as amended, along with new dependent Claims 22 and 23.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, in accordance with the Examiner's Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 5-8, and 21-23. If the Examiner should feel that any issue remains as to the allowability of these claims, or that a conference might expedite allowance of the claims, the Examiner is asked to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Applicants intend this to be a complete response. No additional fee is believed due; however if a fee is due, please charge deposit account No. 19-1453 (File No.102-674).

Respectfully submitted,

SHAFFER & CULBERTSON, L.L.P.

Date: 5 AUG 03

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